

## Bolivia Burning

### Argentina IMC

At least thirteen people have died in the military repression that has made use of live ammunition to control the civil unrest spreading through the Latin American country of Bolivia. President Sánchez de Lozada has announced he would annul the "impuestazo", the proposed tax rise that sparked the protests, and as airplanes fly over the towns it seems more than probable that a curfew will be imposed to prevent further conflict. The law has provoked an explosion of social discontent, including a police strike.

The planned income tax rise would have resulted in up to a 12.5% erosion of public and private employees salaries. In the already complicated situation of stillstanding negotiations between the government and the "Estado Mayor del Pueblo", the "impuestazo" drove people from the middle class onto the streets and even provoked cri

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## Anti-Privatisation Activist Murdered

### South Africa IMC

Early in the morning of 8 February in Orange Farm (an informal settlement of 1.5 million people south of Johannesburg), sixty-one year-old Anti-Privatisation Forum (APF) and Orange Farm Water Crisis Committee (OWCC) activist Emily Nengolo was shot dead in her home by two unknown assailants in what appears to be a po-

litically motivated attack. Over the last year, the OWCC has been actively and effectively involved in resisting water and electricity cut-offs and evictions in their community as well as building community organisation and struggle for meaningful socio-economic development in response to the neoliberal policies of the South

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## Federal Judge Denies Anti-War Group Permit To March

### New York City IMC

A federal judge in Manhattan has denied antiwar demonstrators the right to march in front of the United Nations building. U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Jones has concluded that heightened security concerns posed by up to 100,000

protesters would threaten the public safety and security of the U.N.

In her 26-page ruling, Jones said that the First Amendment guaranteed the right to protest but did not ensure the right to march. She noted that demon-

strators could hold a stationary rally sanctioned by the city at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, located at 47th Street Between First and Second Avenues. An overflow crowd could gather two blocks north along 49th Street between First and Second. *(continued on page 5)*

## WSF Coverage

### Rio Indymedia

The organization of the Independent Media Center coverage of the World Social Forum began approximately two months prior to the event. It was coordinated via e-mail lists, local meetings and Internet conferencing. Through these a structure was set up to cover the WSF and bring together Indymedia volunteers from around the globe.

Facilities were obtained to house the visitors; two floors of a communal building allowed volunteers to work and sleep. Over one hundred volunteers from around the world (including all Brazilian collectives, Argentina, Bolivia, Spain, USA, South Africa, Uruguay, Italy and France) passed by the building daily, with most of them sleeping there.

The IMCistas formed teams (print, video, audio, photos, editorial and tech) to coordinate and organize the WSF coverage, such as the video team's exhibition of Indymedia videos in the Youth Camp and the print team's "CMI na Rua", a daily journal about the WSF put on the walls throughout Porto Alegre.

## WSF Facts and Figures

20,763 delegates from 5,717 organizations from 156 countries; 4,094 journalists representing 1,423 newspaper, radio or TV organisations from 51 countries; 1,286 workshops; 650 volunteers; the 25,000 person Youth Camp; 19,000 representative of around 700 collectives; the

march: more than 70,000 people; cost of WSF: US\$3,485 million, not including indirect costs; the payment of inscriptions was about US\$800,000; money from Ford Foundation: US\$500,000; money from the government of Rio Grande do Sul and Porto Alegre: US\$600,000; support of Petrobras and Banco do Brasil: US\$400,000, and more.



A handful of the thousands of participants from this year's World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brasil.

### What is the IMC?

The Independent Media Center is a network of collectively run media outlets for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate tellings of the truth in an effort to balance the corporate media's distortions and unwillingness to cover the efforts to free humanity. Indymedia is based on an open-publishing framework, permitting anyone to make and broadcast news and media. To find out more, visit the central website at [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org).

Articles featured in this edition have been edited from original articles posted on various Indymedia sites throughout the world.



## NEW ZEALAND POLICE ARREST WEAPONS INSPECTORS.

### Aotearoa IMC

A large team of New Zealand Citizen Weapons inspectors and their supporters met in Parliament grounds on Sunday 2 February 2003. They had previously sent a letter to the US ambassador warning that the inspection would take place on that date, but no reply was received from Ambassador Swindells. Some inspectors were in suits; others wore white overalls and carried metal detectors or other equipment to assist in searching for weapons of mass destruction.

The team and its supporters, totalling 200-250 people, then marched up to the US Embassy, where they assembled in front of the main gates. Speeches were made in which it was emphasised that this was a symbolic, non-violent protest against the US-led war on Iraq. About 50 uniformed police officers were spread out around the perimeter of the embassy grounds, with security guards and more police inside.

At noon a siren sounded and the weapons inspectors and technicians moved forward to attempt to enter the embassy grounds. Some inspectors who broke through police lines and began trying to scale the 2.5 metre fence were arrested and charged with obstruction or public disorder. Two who had made speeches

were arrested, one of them snatched from the crowd, and charged with inciting riot. An Indymedia cameraman was arrested for refusing to co-operate with police. (His cameras were later returned and some pictures he took were posted on Aotearoa Indymedia next day.)

What was meant to be a light-hearted protest became ugly when police used excessive force to make arrests. In all, 23 people were arrested, some for obstructing police vans taking arrested weapons inspectors away. They were processed quickly and all released by mid-afternoon.

Similar attempts to enter US embassies around the world have also been repulsed by local police working on behalf of the world's only super-power. The serious undercurrent to these anti-war protests is the desire to prevent the deaths of Iraqi civilians, while at the same time drawing attention to the hypocrisy of the US governments demands.



NZ: Inspector being arrested

## N o - N A T O Protests

### Germany IMC

Some 25.000 people demonstrated peacefully against the NATO Security Meeting in Munich, Germany on Saturday 8 February. Despite the calm, the police raided the Convergence Center on Friday night arrested twenty-two people, including journalists. Six thousand people joined a second demonstration from the labour unions (DGB), and all over Germany several thousand people took part in antiwar demonstrations.

In February of every year since 1962, Munich, Germany, has been host to a high-ranking conference for the international coordination of military and security strategies. Not only military staff, but diplomats, scientists, media experts and representatives of the economy take part in these conferences. Organizers of the conference have nicknamed it the "Davos of security policies" (in reference to the WEF's long time host town for annual meetings in Switzerland). Over the past years, the Security Conference in Munich has been repeatedly accompanied by protests and actions of resistance.

The protest weekend started on Friday night with a rally, a pro-capitalist cheering satire demonstration, and other actions. After Friday's rally a speaker was arrested for calling for desertions, but released soon after.



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African government. During this time there has been increased repression of activists fighting the neoliberal policies of the ruling African National Congress (ANC). After being shot at by Johannesburg Mayor's security guards, 87 Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee activists were jailed for two weeks in April and the case is still pending in court. More than 200 Anti-Eviction Campaign activists across the Cape Flats have been arrested and detained since June - almost ten court cases are still pending against them.

The presence of international delegates during the World Summit on Sustainable Development didn't halt the government: one hundred activists of the Landless Peoples' Movement were jailed for refusing to leave the site of a march, another 100 activists from the Soldiers' Forum (an Anti-Privatisation Forum affiliate) were detained for taking a train. In order to market their 'home-grown' structural adjustment programme for Africa, the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Thabo Mbeki and his government had to hide and repress the growing dissent against the same neoliberal policies that have been tested in South Africa since 1996.

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tique in corporate sectors. The planned proposal, following the strict regulations of the IMF, was to cutdown on the domestic deficit - currently standing at 8.5% of the budget, to be reduced to 5.5% to comply with the demands.

The eradication of Coca, privatisation of gas, the FTAA and other US impositions have already caused campesino roadblocks that were brutally attacked causing the death of at least 14 people. This time the protests exploded in the cities. On Tuesday night the police special forces (Grupos Especiales de Seguridad), whose barracks are 150 metres from the presidential palace, went on strike. Wednesday morning the wives of the police and non-uniformed policemen joined the protest. Students of Colegio Ayacucho campaigning against the dismissal of the schools director took advantage of the lack of police presence

and threw stones at the government building in Plaza Murillo.

The military police viciously cracked down on the protesters, killing various and then moving on to fight the police. The conflict went on all day, also in Cochabamba and other parts of the country. The protesters set fire and ransacked the ministry of employment, the vice-presidency, and the buildings of the MIR and MNR parties, as well as several stores.

The president announced that the taxes rises had been revoked and ordered the military to retreat. Thirteen people are reported to have died so far, and at least fifty people have been wounded. Evo Morales, of the Movimiento al Socialismo (Movement to Socialism) and Central Obrera Boliviana (union), amongst others, asked for the resignation of Sanchez de Losada, and a general strike has been threatened.



Fires erupted during the recent protests in Bolivia

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Spokespersons for the antiwar group, United for Peace and Justice, said the group wanted to hold a rally and march past the United Nations on Saturday. They wanted to gather at the plaza, then march down First Avenue toward 42nd Street, going across town on 42nd Street and turning uptown on Seventh Avenue to head to Central Park, where a rally would be held. However, Jones cited heightened security concerns as a reason the city was justified in denying a permit.

"The court finds that the heightened security concerns posed by an unorganized large-scale march threatens the city's interest in maintaining the public safety," she said.

She said that the city had denied permits for all demonstrations since September 11 and said that the UN was a "uniquely sensitive" area, noting that it had once been targeted by terrorists.

Lawyers for the New York Civil Liberties Union, who sued the city on behalf of the antiwar group, argued that the city had granted permits to other large groups for marches such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Puerto Rican Day Parade. Christopher Dunn, a lawyer for the New York Civil Liberties Union, said the group would immediately appeal Jones's ruling.

"There is no question in our mind that the First Amendment entitles people to march in the

street to protest their opposition to a possible American war in Iraq," he said. "We believe this decision is wrong and intend to appeal it immediately."



Protestors from the previous anti-war demonstrations in NYC

## Return To Sender

### Sydney IMC

All over the nation, Australians are marking as "return to sender" the anti-terror kits being sent to them by the Howard Government and placing them back in the post-box.

The campaign started with the Mayor of Brisbane's suggestion that "Australians who did not support the Howard government's backing of America's war should simply return the package to sender." The package contained information about what to do if terrorists attacked and many Australians see this as US-backed government scare-mongering. Many critics suggest the package contained nothing of real informative value. Another grassroots action consists of sending small bags of rice per post to US President Bush, Australian Prime Minister Howard, UK PM Blair and others.

## Keep drilling for oil, until you reach Hell

by Gary C. Wagaman

A back breaking swarm  
of vocal tones are  
uprising through  
a crackling foundation.  
The mass-media covers  
are ripped off. The city  
streets must fill with feet  
beating down around the world.  
A star spangled nightmare  
raining on Iraq, will  
lead to a funeral procession of  
mothers full of salt laced tears,  
looking over coffins filled with  
children  
for year upon years.  
To the deaf man in  
a white house:  
If you cannot hear,  
then you will see.

That's why we make signs!  
That's why we move in masses!  
That's why we don't stop until  
the underground swells blast  
through their pipes of oil.  
Pipes driven between the thighs of  
mother nature!  
taking everything she owns,  
even when she says "NO!"  
George W. "The Rapist"  
parading down his carpet of black  
gold  
always looking to fuck...  
Who can put a face on terror?  
non-other than terror himself!  
The 200,000 iraqi children  
who are buried under U.S. sanc-  
tions  
know about terror.  
They know terror is rockets reflect-  
ing red stripes  
over the Baghdad skyline,  
They know terror will send them to  
sleep endlessly  
under pastel white stars,  
They know terror will turn  
faces into a deep sea blue.